Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to participate in this high level meeting that, being held immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development, gives us the opportunity to build momentum and discuss the way ahead for the LLDC countries in the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda is a blueprint designed to turn our countries onto the sustainable and resilient path. It is a very ambitious agenda through which we have committed to end poverty and hunger, realize the human rights of all, and achieve gender equality, social, economic and technological progress without prejudice to the environment. Therefore, the post-2015 development agenda is complementary to the Vienna Program of Action, being meant to support the LLDCs in their endeavors to address the special challenges and development needs and to transform our countries from land-locked to land-linked economies.

Bearing in mind the critical role of these two blueprints for the achievement of the sustainable development, the Republic Moldova is fully-fledged in the implementation of both agendas. Besides the reflection of the sustainable development goals and the six priority areas of the Vienna Program of Action into the national development polices and sectoral strategies, relevant steps are taken for their achievement.

First of all, I will underline the last years’ accession by Moldova to the Association Agreement with the EU and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as its component part which is a major accomplishment for our country. This agreement envisages gradual liberalization of the trade between the EU and the Republic of Moldova, thus our country benefits from new trading opportunities and easier access to the EU market.

Another major accomplishment of our country is the construction of the gas interconnector with Romania concluded in August 2014. The pipeline was built with the EU support and it represents a significant step forward in the consolidation of the energy security of the country through its connectivity to the European energy market and the diversification of gas delivery routes.

In the last years, good results have been achieved including in the logistics and trade facilitation fields. There is a high demand for cross-border transportation, particularly the road transportation in our country and the Moldovan Government continues to capitalize on the geographic, geo-economic situation of our country and its aligning to EU standards to raise our competitiveness in the regional transportation network.

On the issue of trade facilitation, a series of important structural reforms have been implemented in the last 5 years in Moldova in order to streamline the customs administration system and improve the quality and efficiency of customs services.

The national customs regulations framework has been amended in order to simplify the procedures for customs clearance in accordance with EU standards. Here I would like to mention that in 2013 Moldova launched an electronic export clearance service—the so-called e-Customs.

Moreover, in May this year, the Government reviewed the regulation regarding the application of customs destinations and reduced the number of documents necessary for
import and export customs clearance procedures. According to the World Bank index on “doing business”, with these normative improvements Moldova introduces some good practices in international trade just like other advanced economies do such as Singapore (who also requires 3 documents for export and 3 for import), Estonia (4 for import and 3 for export), and also Germany, Spain, France, Italy and other advanced countries.

The achievements mentioned above are examples of successful realization by the Moldovan Government of the development goals. In the pursuit of these goals our country was guided by the principle of national ownership. At the same time, all these accomplishments were possible with the support of the development partners and the public-private partnership.

In this regard, the Republic of Moldova commends and fully supports the commitment made by the participants in the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda for a renewed and strengthened global partnership which is critical for the achievement of the sustainable development.

Taking into account the special development needs of the LLDCs, a strong support at all levels is more than needed to ensure the sustainability of reforms and positive transformations in our countries.

Primarily, I will mention the official development assistance (ODA) which is one of the most important financial source for LLDCs. A continued and enhanced support from ODA countries is relevant for successful implementation of our development agendas.

In the same vein, a greater openness from the international and regional financial institutions to LLDCs is critical when discussing the financing projects related to infrastructure development in such fields like economy, energy and transport.

Also, it is a well known fact that trade is an enabler for growth and development. This is why a rule-based, opened and non-discriminatory trading system is central for sustainable development of our countries. At the same time a special and differential treatment for market access by LLDCs, as well as an enhanced aid for trade would be of high support in the endeavors to integrate our economies in the global market.

Remittances are instrumental for financing development. They are second most important financial flow after ODA for many LLDCs. Meanwhile, the high costs of remittances transfer have constrained their effective use. In this regard, our common task should be the reduction of remittance cost - action that might yield millions of savings.

And last but not least, an increased partnership with the private sector and scientific community to foster the use of creativity and innovation is critical to achieve structural economic transformation and develop value added goods without prejudice to the environment.

In conclusion, allow me to say that we are at the beginning of a long and challenging path to sustainable development and we are all pledged for bold actions, through concerted efforts, to achieve this primary goal. In this respect, we believe that today’s gathering is a step forward in building this genuine partnership for the prosperity of our countries.

Thank you.